

# ST PETER & ST JOHNS CHURCH

Our Aim is to grow closer to God,  
to grow closer to each other,  
and to grow closer to the community

## CHURCH SERVICES

All our weekly services are now live streamed via zoom. We currently have 2 Sunday services, details of which can be found below:

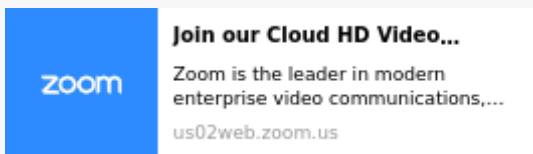
10.30 am - Main Service  
5.00 pm - Breathe Service

You can join a service by clicking the following link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86957347921>

Meeting ID: 869 5734 7921

\*\* Please disregard any previous meeting details and only use this one\*\*



To dial into the services from a landline please call 0203 4815240 and use meeting room ID 623 568 834 - Further instructions can be found in the news section

\*\* Please note the zoom room for each service will open 5 minutes before the service begins\*\*



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## CONTACT US

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St Peter & St John Church, Clifton Road, Rugby, CV21 3QP

# WEEKLY READINGS

## ISAIAH 55: 10-13 NLT

“The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it. You will live in joy and peace. The mountains and hills will burst into song, and the trees of the field will clap their hands! Where once there were thorns, cypress trees will grow. Where nettles grew, myrtles will sprout up. These events will bring great honor to the Lord’s name; they will be an everlasting sign of his power and love.”

## MATTHEW 13: 1-9 & 18-23 NLT

Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. 2 A large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat there and taught as the people stood on the shore. 3 He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one: “Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. 4 As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. 5 Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. 6 But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn’t have deep roots, they died. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. 8 Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! 9 Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

18 “Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds: 19 The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don’t understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. 20 The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. 21 But since they don’t have deep roots, they don’t last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God’s word. 22 The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God’s word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. 23 The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God’s word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!”

*Your word is a lamp to my feet,  
and a light to my path.*

*Psalm 119: 105*

## SHORT SERMON

WRITTEN BY REVD SHEILA BRIDGE

'Seeds and Sowers and Soil

The parable from today’s gospel reading is often known as the parable of the sower and the seed, but we must not forget the soil! It is actually the four different soil conditions which makes the point of the whole story.

It all reads as a rather gentle countryside story; picturing a simple farmer throwing his seed with wild abandon, not worrying where they land, perhaps with a smile on his face and the sun setting in the background and all nature at peace. Is that really what it’s all about?

No. Unsurprisingly it’s about something much more controversial. It’s about the fact that God liberally and universally sows the seed of his love into all different situations, nations, and conditions.

It also says some very challenging things about God. It doesn’t exactly hold up a very good business model. Would God really be so random? Just throwing the seed anywhere with no targeting, no market research know best growth strategies? It all feels a bit shambolic and risky.

As someone who has had experience of planting seeds (and I’m speaking literally here not metaphorically) and not seeing some of them grow or watching some of them grow and then wither this feels like an all too real description of the way the world works.

I for one am heartened by two things in this story: firstly, it is God who sews the seed and secondly although all of these different conditions exist, love is sown into all of them. Every condition is a possible growing place and is given as much chance as any other.

The good news is given and offered and invited to grow no matter the condition you are in, no matter what the culture is, no matter how the church is, it is universally given and generously offered by the divine Sower.

# PRAYERS

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake. Amen.



Lord God, you are always with me. You are with me in the day and in the night. You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad. You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill. You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am worried. Today I am feeling (name how you are feeling), because (reasons you are feeling this way). Help me to remember that you love me and are with me in everything today. Amen.

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now. The news is full of stories about Coronavirus. Some people are worried that they might get ill. Others are anxious for their family and friends. Be with them and help them to find peace. We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are working to discover the right medicines to help those who are ill. Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us. Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe. Amen.

## THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Louise Bradshaw, Kenneth Timson, Brian Copperwheat, Kay Grocock, Edwina Goodwin, Rachael Coysh, Claire Boulton, Claire Worster, Roy Jackson, Ida Price

*"We are most effective as believers when we join together in love and prayer"*

## VERSE OF THE WEEK

"God's way is perfect. All the Lord's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection.

*Psalm 18:30 NLT*

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY FROM BISHOP JOHN

"Tomorrow, 11th July, we celebrate St Benedict of Nursia (c.550), often described as the Founder of Western Monasticism. The Rule of Benedict is as inspirational and life-giving now as it was when it was written in the 6th century. It is written for flawed people like every one of us. I warmly commend it for praying and pondering. The first word of the Prologue is 'Listen'. Benedict calls the brothers and readers to listen; to listen to the Abbot, to listen to one another, to listen to the wisdom of the young and, above all, to listen to God. And this listening is not be casual – as so often it is – but, 'with the ears of your heart'. His Rule is saturated with the Scriptures. 'Now is the time to rise from sleep'. Let us open our eyes to the light that transfigures, and unstop our ears to the sound of God's voice which daily cries out to us 'Oh that today you would listen to his voice and harden not your hearts.' The pandemic has been, for many of us across the world, a time of reckoning, reckoning with our fragility and mortality, and a time perhaps also of (re)discovering what actually matters most of all – and therefore the things that we can let go of. I pray that our listening to God both personally and corporately will continue and deepen. If this truly is our desire we will find ourselves being changed and becoming instruments of change. When our wills are aligned with God's will, when we can pray with Mary, the Mother of God, 'Let it be according to thy word' and mean it, God gives birth to new life in us and through us.

*Bishop John is the Bishop of Warwick*

# NEWS AND NOTICES

## JOINING A ZOOM MEETING IF YOU ONLY HAVE A LANDLINE PHONE

You can still come to church over the phone! You can dial in to our zoom church services at 10.30 am or 5pm by simply doing the following:

1. Call this number at the time you want to join the service **0203 4815240**
2. You will hear a recorded message asking you what zoom meeting you want to join. Use the buttons on your phone to enter this number: **623568834**
3. You should then connect to the zoom room.

You cannot see anyone or be seen by anyone but you will be able to hear and be heard by everyone at the zoom service. You might find that the service lead 'mutes' you so no background noise from your household disturbs others and this also means you can sing along to the hymns and no one can hear you. You 'appear' in our meeting as a black square which displays your phone number. Please be aware that others in the meeting can see this number but no visual record of the service is recorded so it won't be seen by anyone who did not come to church.

## PARISH GIVING

During the current pandemic giving to our church is more important than ever. The practical impact of not holding services and not having anyone hire the hall is immense.

We still have bills to pay (eg insurance, standing charge for gas, parish share, building maintenance) we are losing on average £1,700 a month through no hall rentals and no giving through weekly donations on the plate.

Therefore we need to find other ways of giving and there are many ways this can be done. To find out more information about giving please [click here](#)

**\*\* Please note that we are no longer able to cash cheques made out to the PCC. If you are donating/making payments to the Church using a cheque book please ensure the payee name is ST PETER & ST JOHNS CHURCH\*\***

## CHURCH RE-OPENING

We are very pleased to announce that we will be running some of our services in Church. At present we have 2 dates planned in July - these can be found below. As this is under continual review please ensure you check the newsletter/facebook/website/email regularly for updated service information including any cancellations and additions.

**Sunday 19th July at 10:30 am, this will be a service of Holy Communion in church.** Numbers will be limited to around 40 people/households and in order to comply with social distancing some people will need to sit upstairs. Holy Communion will only be the sharing of the wafer. There will be no singing although we will be allowed to listen to music. There will be no refreshments and no communal sharing of the peace. If you intend coming to this service we do suggest you arrive early. Sheila will be posting up on Facebook a video about what to expect when you first come back to church. Please do look out for that on the St Peter and St John's Facebook page.

**Sunday 26th July at 4 pm, on this Sunday the church will be open for private prayer between 3 pm and 4 pm and if the weather is good we will have an outside service in the front garden.** You are invited to bring your own chair if you can manage to do so, or you can collect a lightweight folding chair from inside the church hall. You are also welcome to bring your own refreshments/picnic. The short service 30-40 mins long will involve listening to familiar hymns 'Songs of Praise' style, a short family friendly reading/reflection and some prayers. We will have to maintain social distancing, therefore numbers will also be limited for this service. Please watch the website, the Facebook page and your email in case this is cancelled at the last moment due to the weather.

## DAILY HOPE - 0800 804 8044

If you are not able to get to church via the Internet in any way, why not listen in to this every day? You could even agree with a friend or two that you will all listen in on a particular day and then give each other a call to discuss what you've heard.